

**OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH AT
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY**

THE BYARS-TARNAY BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING ENDOWMENT

Introduction:

On behalf of the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources (Statler) and the School of Medicine (SoM), we are pleased to announce an exciting opportunity to stimulate externally funded collaborative biomedical engineering research. This opportunity is made possible through the support of the Byars-Tarnay Endowment in the WVU Foundation. The endowment was established to build biomedical engineering programs for the Statler College with the SoM.

We anticipate making up to 3 to 4 one-year awards of up to \$50,000 each to faculty teams demonstrating innovative, interdisciplinary collaborations in biomedical engineering research. Funded projects must clearly enhance the capabilities of the research teams and their competitiveness to secure extramural grant funding. The project lead investigator is normally expected to be from Engineering and/or Medicine. New, transformative ideas/concepts that could lead to new directions/collaborations are encouraged and prior results/data are not a prerequisite.

Letter of Intent (LoI):

To aid in planning for the evaluation of proposals, a short (two paragraph) Letter of Intent (LoI) should be sent via email to Kathleen Cullen (Kathleen.Cullen@mail.wvu.edu) by **Monday, December 15, 2014, 5:00 PM EST**. The LoI should provide: (a) a tentative title of the proposed project, (b) a brief description of the interdisciplinary project, and (c) names and affiliations of principal and co-investigators.

A faculty member can submit no more than two (2) separate LoI's as a principal investigator (PI) and participate on no more than three (3) additional LoI's as a co-principal investigator (Co-PI). The maximum number of team members (including the PI) on any LoI is five (5). Formation of collaborative teams comprising faculty from the Statler College and the SoM is expected.

No further action will be taken on LoI's that: (a) do not provide the information requested, or (b) are not related to interdisciplinary biomedical engineering related research, (c) do not follow other guidelines in terms of participant limitations; (d) do not email the LoI by the deadline.

Final Applications:

Details of the final application process will be provided to applicants after receipt and successful review of their Lol. Final applications will be in the form of a short, three-page proposal due in **late January 2015**, with funding decisions anticipated by **late March 2015**. The need for interdisciplinary research collaboration and the pathway for development of external funding must be clearly shown in the final application. Use of funds to support graduate students/post-docs is permissible, but faculty salary support is disallowed.

Summary:

This is a wonderful opportunity to use accumulated one-time funds in this endowment to stimulate and build major new programs for the University at a time when there are significantly expanding opportunities for biomedical engineering to impact life science research. Clear expectations will be set for teams to develop or expand collaborations beyond just the writing and submission of grants.

Winning teams will be expected to submit proposals to secure external funding for this research from the appropriate agencies (e.g. NSF, NIH) within 6-12 months of the end of the seed grant period. During the duration of the award, teams must submit a draft proposal with their hypothesis and specific aims for internal review.

Please direct any *technical* inquiries to the Associate Deans for Research, Pradeep Fulay (pradeep.fulay@mail.wvu.edu) and Al Berrebi (aberrebi@hsc.wvu.edu).

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